

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 44-84 are pending.

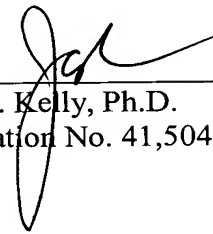
This application is a Continuation of application serial No. 10/051,172, filed on January 22, 2002, now U.S. Patent No. 6,670,352, which is a continuation of application serial No. 09/328,436, filed on June 9, 1999, now U.S. patent No. 6,369,047, which is a divisional of application serial No. 08/979,369, filed on November 26, 1997, now U.S. patent No. 5,952,319.

Applicants note U.S. patent application No. U.S. 2003/0069215 A1. While Applicants do not know what claims are pending in that application, it is possible that the claims of the present application and that application may interfere.

Applicants submit that the present application is ready for examination on the merits. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



---

James J. Kelly, Ph.D.  
Registration No. 41,504

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413-2220  
(OSMMN 01/04)

NFO/JK/lcd